

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A medicinal ointment comprising 1% to 90% by weight an active kavalactone selected from the group consisting of dihydrokawain, dihydromethysticin, kawain, and a combination thereof; and a medicinally acceptable carrier.
- 5 2. The medicinal ointment of claim 1, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydrokawain.
3. The medicinal ointment of claim 1, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydromethysticin.
4. The medicinal ointment of claim 1, wherein the active kavalactone is a combination of  
10 dihydromethysticin, dihydrokawain, and kawain.
5. The medicinal ointment of claim 1, wherein the ointment comprises 1.5% to 30% by weight an active kavalactone selected from the group consisting of dihydrokawain, dihydromethysticin, kawain, and a combination thereof; and a medicinally acceptable  
15 carrier.
6. The medicinal ointment of claim 5, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydrokawain.
7. The medicinal ointment of claim 5, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydromethysticin.
8. The medicinal ointment of claim 5, wherein the active kavalactone is a combination of  
20 dihydromethysticin, dihydrokawain, and kawain.
9. The medicinal ointment of claim 1, wherein the ointment comprises 2% to 25% by  
25 weight an active kavalactone selected from the group consisting of dihydrokawain, dihydromethysticin, kawain, and a combination thereof; and a medicinally acceptable carrier.
10. The medicinal ointment of claim 9, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydrokawain.

11. The medicinal ointment of claim 9 wherein the active kavalactone is dihydromethysticin.

12. The medicinal ointment of claim 9, wherein the active kavalactone is a combination of dihydromethysticin, dihydrokawain, and kawain.

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13. A patch comprising a material layer and a composition associated with the material layer; the composition having 1% to 90% by weight an active kavalactone selected from the group consisting of dihydrokawain, dihydromethysticin, kawain, and a combination thereof, associated with the material layer.

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14. The patch of claim 13, further comprising a protective layer intimately adhered to one side of the material layer which is resistant to passage of the active kavalactone.

15. The patch of claim 14, wherein the material layer includes a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

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16. The patch of claim 15, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydrokawain.

17. The patch of claim 15, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydromethysticin.

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18. The patch of claim 15, wherein the active kavalactone is a combination of dihydromethysticin, dihydrokawain, and kawain.

19. The patch of claim 15, wherein the adhesive layer includes 1.5% to 30% by weight an active kavalactone selected from the group consisting of dihydrokawain, dihydromethysticin, kawain, and a combination thereof; and a medicinally acceptable carrier.

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20. The patch of claim 19, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydrokawain.

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21. The patch of claim 19, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydromethysticin.

22. The patch of claim 19, wherein the active kavalactone is a combination of dihydromethysticin, dihydrokawain, and kawain.

23. The patch of claim 15, wherein the adhesive layer includes 2% to 25% by weight an active kavalactone selected from the group consisting of dihydrokawain, dihydromethysticin, kawain, and a combination thereof; and a medically acceptable carrier.

24. The patch of claim 23, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydrokawain.

25. The patch of claim 23, wherein the active kavalactone is dihydromethysticin.

26. The patch of claim 23, wherein the active kavalactone is a combination of dihydromethysticin, dihydrokawain, and kawain.